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21 December 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Training

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FROM : [REDACTED] Room 1 D 1617,
Ext. 5941

SUBJECT : Report of Completion of Vietnam
Orientation 4-68 (#21)
November 3-9, 1967

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1. Basic Data

[REDACTED], including three females, completed the 21st running of the Vietnam Orientation 3-9 November 1967. The course was conducted at Headquarters in a variety of rooms. The first two days were spent in 1 E 78; the last two days in G A 13; the middle day was a nomadic existence: the class moved, ever in search of a resting place, from G A 13 to the Auditorium, to 1 E 80, and finally to 1 E 78. The students remained remarkable agreeable throughout this experience.

2. Changes in Schedule

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-Fortunately the schedule changed less than our resting place. Because of illness [REDACTED] was absent, because of a TDY trip [REDACTED] was [REDACTED]

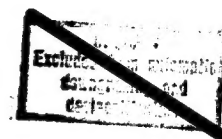
[REDACTED] otherwise things proceeded smoothly.

3. Item of Interest

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For the first time in the Orientation the class was taken on a tour of and given a briefing in the Vietnam [REDACTED]. This [REDACTED] is a new part of [REDACTED] office and [REDACTED] 25X1A9a is a clearing house for the preparation and presentation of current status reports on the Vietnamese situation.

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The briefing was given by [REDACTED], formerly of the Special Forces; it was basically good but too detailed, especially on the various organizations making an input to [REDACTED]. I will make suggestions to [REDACTED] for modifying this briefing more in line with the needs of the students.

4. Critiques

Brushing aside the usual accolades, let me cite three critical comments. Incidentally they all came from CTs:

A. A 22 year old man, fresh out of Oriental Studies at Princeton, and with a September 1967 EOD gave this as his impression of the course as a whole, "good for someone who knows absolutely nothing about Vietnam and the Agency. A mixture of boredom, highlighted by moments of extreme interest and valuable information." On films he observed that "the films were of value only because the lights were then put out. All except the RD film had been on TV several times, and the RD film itself was only slightly informative and far too simplistic."

B. A 30 year old CT who had spent one year in Vietnam found the briefing of little value to him. He did think there should have been "much more information regarding personal needs. What was presented was done so poorly." His impression of the course as a whole was "Very Good," but he thinks that "most people attending the course are more interested in their personal needs and well being, and what to expect in Vietnam than the Agency's broad concepts and relations to the country."

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C. A 33 year old CT found most of the material presented was "A repetition of CT classes held at the [REDACTED] during the last nine months." He did add "the course is a good one and a very useful necessity to orient personnel going to the highly sophisticated situation existing in Vietnam."

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My only factual comment relates to attendance by these three people at the Orientation. The first young man faithfully attended the entire program; the second one came late the first day, slept through the first lecture and managed, presumably under the guise of processing, to absent himself most of the week; the third CT, the only one of genial disposition, also managed to come and go pretty freely, also under the same guise.

[REDACTED]
Chief Instructor

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[REDACTED]
Chief, Orientation and
Briefing Faculty

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